Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 remain in the application. Claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages. Claim 4 has been cancelled

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 5-9 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that claims 5-9 are vague and indefinite because the recitation of a feed cylinder and an impression cylinder is unclear as to how these two cylinders are related to the at least one roller as recited in independent claim 1. Claim 5 has been amended so as to overcome the rejection.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes

are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In the fourth paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-4 and 10 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Münker (U.S. Patent No. 5,271,323) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 5-9 have been rejected as being obvious over by Münker (U.S. Patent No. 5,271,323) in view of Schaede (U.S. Patent No. 5,839,366) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 4, lines 6-13 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

"rollers and at least a first and a second functional element respectively assigned to one of said rollers for executing cyclic movements synchronized with a rotational movement of

said rollers and driven, together with said rollers, by a drive unit; and

spring elements, respectively, assigned to the functional elements, said spring elements being stressed in one phase of the cyclic movement and relieved of stress in another phase of the cyclic movement, a respective phase wherein a first one of said spring elements is stressed being synchronized with a respective phase wherein a second one of said spring elements is relieved of stress."

The Münker reference discloses a printing machine with an impression cylinder (6), which, at its circumference, carries two gripper assemblies (14 and 16), which are hinged on the periphery of the impression cylinder (6).

Clearly, the reference does not show rollers and at least a first and a second functional element respectively assigned to one of the rollers for executing cyclic movements synchronized with a rotational movement of the rollers and driven, together with the rollers, by a drive unit; and spring elements, respectively, assigned to the functional elements, the spring elements being stressed in one phase of the cyclic movement and relieved of stress in another phase of the cyclic movement, a respective phase wherein a first one of the spring elements is stressed being synchronized with a respective

phase wherein a second one of the spring elements is relieved of stress, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Münker does not disclose a compensation of balancing torques. In order to balance the torques, the functional elements and their respective spring elements must be located on different cylinders or drums. Therefore, the compensation of balancing torques cannot be accomplished using Münker because the spring-loaded gripper assemblies (14 and 16) are located on the same impression cylinder (6).

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest rollers and at least a first and a second functional element respectively assigned to one of the rollers for executing cyclic movements synchronized with a rotational movement of the rollers and driven, together with the rollers, by a drive unit; and spring elements, respectively, assigned to the functional elements, the spring elements being stressed in one phase of the cyclic movement and relieved of stress in another phase of the cyclic movement, a respective phase wherein a first one of the spring elements is stressed being synchronized with a respective phase wherein a second one of the spring elements is relieved of stress, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent

claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-10 are solicited.

Even though claim 1 and all dependent claims are believed to be patentable, further discussion of the Schaede reference is given. Schaede discloses a sheet-printing machine with a sheet-transporting cylinder (2) in which the sheet transfer from one cylinder to the next is performed via suction strips. Therefore, Schaede does not disclose any balancing of torques.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

For Applicant(s)

AKD:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (amended). A printing machine, comprising: [having at least one roller]
rollers and at least a first and a second functional element respectively assigned to one of said rollers for executing cyclic movements synchronized with a rotational movement of [the roller] said rollers and driven, together with [the roller] said rollers, by a drive unit[,] ; and [comprising]

spring elements, respectively, assigned to the functional elements, said spring elements being stressed in one phase of the cyclic movement and relieved of stress in another phase of the cyclic movement, a respective phase wherein a first one of said spring elements is stressed being synchronized with a respective phase wherein a second one of said spring elements is relieved of stress.

Claim 2 (amended). The printing machine according to claim 1, including a cam disk for aiding in coupling the cyclic movement of each of the functional elements to the rotational movement of the [roller] rollers.

Claim 3 (amended). The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the functional elements is a sheet gripper mounted on at least one of the [roller] rollers.

Claim 5 (amended). The printing machine according to claim 1, wherein said rollers include a feed cylinder and an impression cylinder, a first one of the functional elements is a sheet gripper mounted on [a] said feed cylinder, and a second one of the functional elements is a sheet gripper mounted on [an] said impression cylinder.